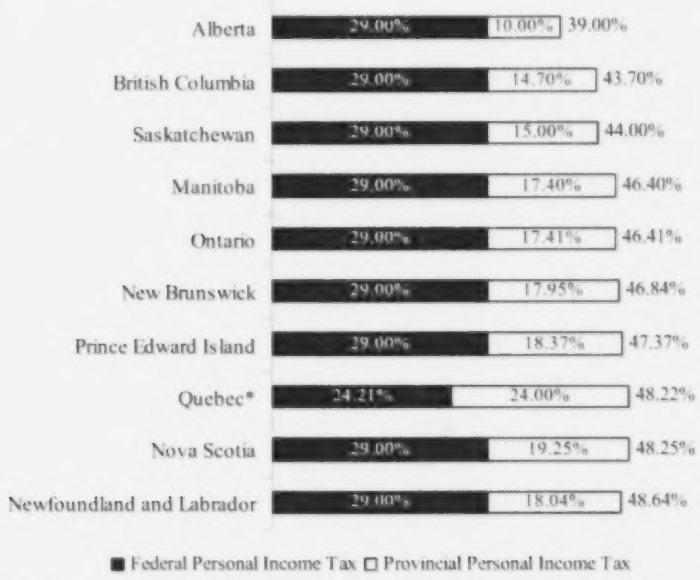
Personal Income Taxes

Alberta's low personal income taxes allow people to spend or invest more of their own money according to their wishes. Alberta's low top-marginal-tax-rate rewards the efforts of Albertans and attracts skilled workers from around the world, further fuelling an already dynamic economy.

Alberta indexes its personal income tax system to offset inflation, protecting taxpayers. Increases were made to the basic, spousal and eligible dependant amounts by an additional $536, raising the amounts to $15,435 for 2007, up from $14,899 in 2006.

The annual indexing of the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit began in July 2006. Payments in July 2007 and January 2008 will rise to $581 for the first child, $528 for the second, $317 for the third and $106 for the fourth. The income level at which the credit begins to be phased out rose from $25,475 to $26,392. A typical working family with two children can earn up to $39,200 in 2007 before paying provincial income taxes, as the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit offsets any taxes paid to that level.

Top Marginal Effective Personal Income Tax Rates – July 2007



*Federal tax payable has been reduced by 16.5% abatement for Quebec taxpayers.
Note: Includes Surtaxes
Source: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Tax Facts and Figures 2007*

Albertans also benefit from not having to pay a general provincial sales tax. This particularly helps Albertans with lower incomes, who spend a higher portion of their income. In comparison, other provinces generate over 25% of tax revenues from a general sales tax.

Personal Taxable Income Brackets and Rates by Province - 2007

	Basic Amount	Basic Brackets and Rates (rates apply starting at the brackets shown)					Surtax thresholds and Rates**
Alberta	$15,435	$0 10%					N/A
British Columbia	$9,027	$0 5.70%	$34,397 8.65%	$68,794 11.10%	$78,984 13.00%	$95,909 14.70%	
Manitoba	$7,834	$0 10.90%	$30,544 13.00%	$65,000 17.40%			
New Brunswick	$8,239	$0 10.12%	$34,186 15.48%	$68,374 16.80%	$111,161 17.95%		
Newfoundland and Labrador	$7,484	$0 9.64%	$29,886 14.98%	$59,772 17.26%			$7,102 ($62,469) 4.50%
Nova Scotia	$7,481	$0 8.79%	$29,590 14.95%	$59,180 16.67%	$93,000 17.50%		$10,000 ($80,973) 10.00%
Ontario	$8,553	$0 6.05%	$35,488 9.15%	$70,976 11.16%			$4,100 ($62,487), 20% $5,172 ($73,622), 36%
Prince Edward Island	$7,560	$0 9.80%	$31,369 13.80%	$62,739 16.70%			$8,850 ($75,839) 10.00%
Quebec*	$12,188*	$0 16.00%	$29,290 20.00%	$58,595 24.00%			N/A
Saskatchewan	$8,778	$0 11.00%	$38,405 13.00%	$109,729 15.00%			

*In Quebec, the federal component of tax is reduced by the 16.5% abatement of basic federal tax.
**Surtax rates apply to provincial tax above surtax thresholds. Figure in brackets are the taxable income levels that correspond to the thresholds, assuming only the basic personal credit is claimed.
Source: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Tax Facts and Figures 2007*

Interprovincial Tax and Health Care Premium Comparison

Alberta's overall personal taxes are the lowest in Canada in 2007. As the following charts demonstrate, families pay less tax in Alberta than in any other province. Based on a two-income family with two children, earning an income of $75,000 per year, Albertans pay $4,206 less in taxes than residents of Newfoundland and Labrador and $1,827 less than residents of Ontario.

Employment Income of $30,000 – One Income Family with Two Children ($) - 2007

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Provincial Income Tax	543	(967)	77	499	(477)	(3,994)	850	940	1,117	1,444
Provincial Sales Tax	736		355	909	889	1,168	1,139	1,182	1,318	1,146
Health Care Premium					225					
Payroll Tax				231	441	638				128
Fuel Tax	435	270	450	345	44	456	321	465	591	495
Tobacco Tax	895	925	915	875	618	515	588	815	873	900
Total Provincial Tax	2,609	228	1,797	2,859	1,740	(1,217)	2,898	3,402	3,899	4,113

Employment Income of $75,000 – Two Income Family with Two Children ($) - 2007

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Provincial Income Tax	2,521	2,987	4,162	4,661	2,702	3,319	4,747	4,614	4,837	5,390
Provincial Sales Tax	1,268		807	1,530	1,702	2,281	1,936	2,020	2,257	1,963
Health Care Premium	972	792			563					
Payroll Tax				578	689	1,594				319
Fuel Tax	653	405	675	518	662	684	482	698	887	743
Tobacco Tax	895	925	915	875	618	515	588	815	873	900
Total Provincial Tax	6,309	5,109	6,559	8,162	6,936	8,393	7,753	8,147	8,854	9,315

Employment Income of $125,000 – Two Income Family with Two Children ($) - 2007

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Provincial Income Tax	5,992	7,191	9,399	10,309	6,349	11,714	10,869	10,838	10,750	12,220
Provincial Sales Tax	1,947		1,218	2,304	2,596	3,283	2,898	3,017	3,390	2,924
Health Care Premium	972	792			788					
Payroll Tax				963	1,148	2,657				532
Fuel Tax	653	405	675	518	662	684	482	398	887	743
Tobacco Tax	895	925	915	875	618	515	588	815	873	900
Total Provincial Tax	10,459	9,313	12,207	14,969	12,161	18,853	14,837	15,068	15,900	17,319

Calculations are based on other provinces' tax parameters known as of March 30, 2007.
Assumptions:
- Business is assumed to bear between 25% and 60% of the provincial sales tax, depending upon the provincial tax regime.
- Health care insurance premiums are net of premium subsidies.
- In provinces that impose payroll taxes, 75% is assumed to be borne by employees and 25% by employers. The same 75/25 split is assumed for the net health care insurance premiums.
- Fuel tax is based on estimated consumption of 3,000 litres per year for one-income families and 4,500 litres for two-income families.
- Tobacco tax is based on estimated consumption of 100 packs per adult per year.
- RRSP/RPP contributions of $1,000, $9,700 and $16,800 are included in the calculation of personal income tax for the $30,000, $75,000 and $125,000 families, respectively.
- For two-income families, income and RRSP/RPP contributions are split 60/40 between the two spouses.
- The children in each family are assumed to be 6 and 12 years old.

Source: Alberta Finance, *Budget 2007*

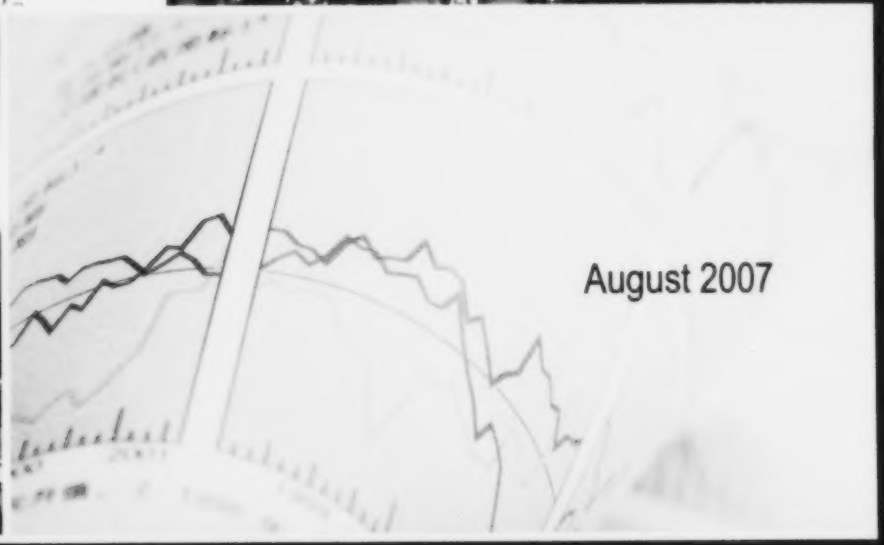
Municipal Taxation

In Alberta, the assessment of property taxes is based on market value as set out in the Municipal Government Act and Regulations. There are two levies against assessable property in the province: the Municipal Levy, used to fund municipal services, and the Alberta Education Levy, collected on behalf of the provincial government to help fund education.

All business occupants in the cities of Calgary and Edmonton are assessed for business taxation. Business tax is calculated based on the assessed value of the space occupied by the business, multiplied by the annual tax rate as set by each City Council. In 2007, the business tax rate for Calgary is 7.81% and for Edmonton it is 9.746%.

Corporate Taxation

Alberta provides an attractive tax environment for business. Alberta's low taxes on capital investment are a key factor in encouraging businesses to invest in new technologies and machinery, increasing innovation and boosting productivity. Ultimately this results in a higher



Facts on Alberta

LEGISLATURE LIBRARY
OCT 17 2007
EDMONTON

Alberta
Employment, Immigration and Industry

standard of living for all Albertans. In addition, Alberta has no provincial capital or payroll taxes, which are common in many other provinces and U.S. states

Provincial Capital and Payroll Tax Rates

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Capital Tax (max %)	-	-	-	0.50	0.285	0.49	0.20	0.24	-	-
Payroll Tax (max %)	-	-	-	2.15	1.95	4.26	-	-	-	2.00

Rates for other provinces known as of July 2007
Source: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Tax Facts and Figures 2007*

Provincial Corporate Income Tax Rates

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
General (%)	12.0	10.0	13.0	14.0	14.0	9.9/11.9 [2]	13.0	16.0	16.0	14.0
Mfg. & Processing (%)	12.0	10.0	10-13 [1]	14.0	12.0	9.9/11.9 [2]	13.0	16.0	16.0	5.0
Small Business (%)	4.5	3.0	4.5	3.0	5.5	8.0	5.0	5.0	4.3	5.0

1. The general corporate tax rate is reduced by up to 3 points based on the share of a corporation's national manufacturing and processing income allocated to Saskatchewan.
2. The 11.9% is for financial institutions and oil refining companies

Rates for other provinces known as of January 2007
Source: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Tax Facts and Figures 2007*

Federal Corporate Tax Rates

Federal Corporate Tax Rates (in currency of country)	**Canada (2007)**	**United States (2006)**
Corporate Income Tax (%) [a]		
Top General Statutory Rate	22.12	35.00
Manufacturing Rate	22.12	32.90
Small Business	13.12	34.00
Combined Effective (Cdn. Federal +AB & US Federal + State Avg.)	32.12	39.10
General Sales Tax (%) [b]	6.00	-
Social Security [c]	4.95 % (max. $1,990 on max. contributory earnings of $40,200)	6.2% (max. $6,045 on max. contributory earnings of $97,500)
Employ. Ins./ Unemployment Tax (employer premiums) [d]	2.52% (max. $1,008 on max. insurable earnings of $40,000)	6.2% ($434 on taxable wage limit of $7,000)
Medicare	-	1.45%

a) Canada: Federal small business rate is currently being applied to taxable income up to C$400,000. United States: The manufacturing rate is the effective rate taking into account the 6% deduction allowed for domestic production activities. The small business rate is the effective federal rate on taxable income of US$340,000 approximating the Canadian federal small business threshold at an exchange rate of US$0.85/C$. Combined effective rate (using 2006 State rates) takes into account deductibility of state corporate income taxes for federal tax purposes, but not special rates that may apply to certain types of corporations such as S-Corporations.

b) This refundable value-added tax has no net cost once input tax credits (refunds) have been claimed.

c) Represents Canada Pension Plan and U.S. Social Security. In Canada the employers' CPP share is equal to the employees' share. The maximum pensionable earnings in Canada are $43,700. A $3,500 deduction is applied to calculate the maximum contributory earnings of $40,200.

d) Canada: All rates shown are maximum rates paid by employers at 1.4 times the employee premium and are levied at the federal level only. United States: The Statutory Federal rate is 6.2%. Employers can claim a credit against the federal employment insurance tax (FUTA) for contributions paid into state unemployment funds. This credit cannot be more than 5.4% of taxable wages. The FUTA tax rate after the max credit is 0.8%.

Rates for Canada and the U.S. known as of January 2007
Sources: Internal Revenue Service; PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Tax Facts and Figures 2007*; Federation of Tax Administrators

REAL ESTATE

Industrial Real Estate

Alberta offers industrial real estate that is well serviced and meets a variety of needs. Smaller municipalities, such as Lethbridge and Red Deer, have facilities and land with rates that are competitive with larger centers.

Industrial Triple Net Rent* - Per Square Foot (psf)

	Warehouse / Distribution Space (psf)	Bulk Space (psf)	Flex / Service Space (psf)	Tech / R&D Space (psf)
Calgary	$6.25	$6.50	$7.50	$7.25
Edmonton	$4.50	$4.25	$5.75	$7.00
Halifax	$6.00	$5.25	$7.50	$8.95
Montreal	$4.50	$3.50	$5.50	$7.00
Ottawa	$7.00	$6.75	$8.50	$10.00
Regina	$4.00	$3.50	$7.00	n/a
Toronto	$5.25	$5.00	$7.75	$8.00
Vancouver	$6.00	$5.25	$8.25	$9.00
Victoria	$8.50	n/a	$9.50	$9.00
Winnipeg	$4.25	$4.00	n/a	n/a

*Triple Net Rent includes rent (annual) payable to the landlord and does not include additional expenses such as taxes, insurance, maintenance, janitorial and utilities.
Note: values in Canadian dollars.
Source: Colliers International, *Canadian Real Estate Forecast 2005/2006*

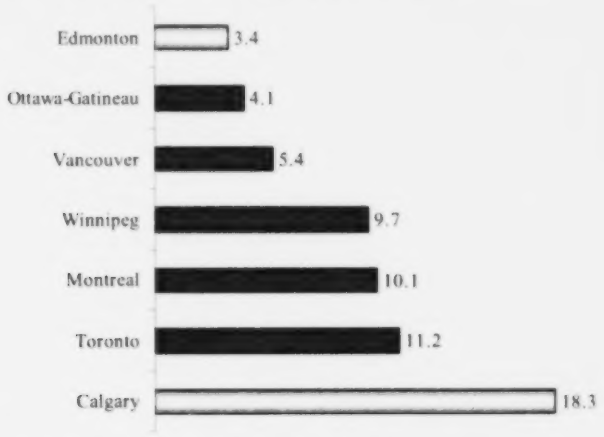
Technology/R&D Space - Triple Net Rent* Per Square Foot

*Triple Net Rent includes rent (annual) payable to the landlord and does not include additional expenses such as taxes, insurance, maintenance, janitorial and utilities.
Note: values in Canadian dollars
Source: Colliers International, *Canadian Real Estate Forecast 2005/2006*

Commercial Real Estate

Calgary is home to the highest concentration of corporate head office employment and the highest number of head offices per capita in Canada. Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, is the location of most of the provincial and federal government offices.

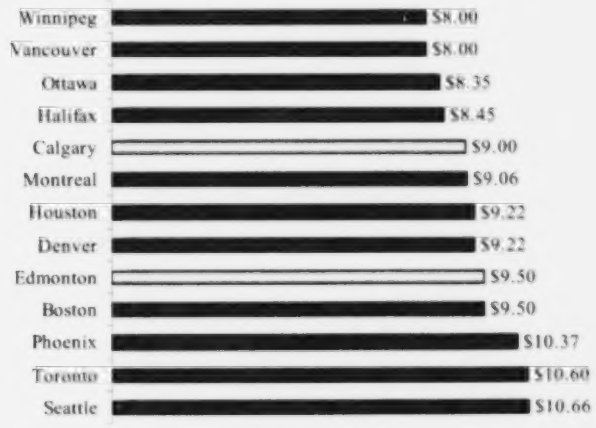
Head Office Employment Per Capita (000's) - 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, *Head Office Employment in Canada, 1999-2005*

When compared to other major metropolitan areas in North America in 2006, operating costs and rental rates in Edmonton and Calgary were competitive with other major North American jurisdictions.

Downtown Class 'A' Office Space, Operating Costs* (psf) Per Annum



*Values in Canadian dollars
Source: Colliers International, *Canadian Real Estate Review 2005-2006*

2008-02049/

FACTS ON ALBERTA

LIVING AND DOING BUSINESS IN ALBERTA

Alberta

POPULATION:	3,455,062 (April 1, 2007)
AREA:	Over 661,000 km^2
MAJOR CITIES:	***Edmonton metropolitan area*** – 1,050,046 (2006) ***Calgary metropolitan area*** – 1,107,242 (2006)
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT:	$235.6 billion (2006, current dollars) $152.7 billion (2006, chained 1997 dollars)
REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH: (chained 1997 dollars)	2006: 6.8% 2005: 4.6% 2004: 5.4%
ECONOMIC BASE:	***Traditional*** • Oil and Gas • Petrochemicals • Agricultural Services • Food and Beverage Processing • Tourism ***Emerging*** • Nanotechnology • Biotechnology & Pharmaceuticals • Software Development • Electronics & Microelectronics
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT:	$75.3 billion (2006)
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:	3.4% (2006) 3.9% (2005) 4.6% (2004)
GOVERNMENT:	The Alberta Government's strategy combines natural advantages with a positive business climate that encourages investment and growth. This includes: • a low tax regime; • streamlined regulations; • a balanced provincial budget; and • a modern infrastructure of transportation, utilities, education and health.

This report is based on information and sources considered to be reliable at time of publication.

Residential Housing

RBC Financial Group's housing affordability index measures the proportion of median pre-tax household income required to service the cost of mortgage payments, property taxes and utilities for a home. In the fourth quarter of 2006, Alberta homes were more affordable than the national average. Affordability rates in Edmonton and Calgary are comparable to rates in other large metropolitan areas in Canada.

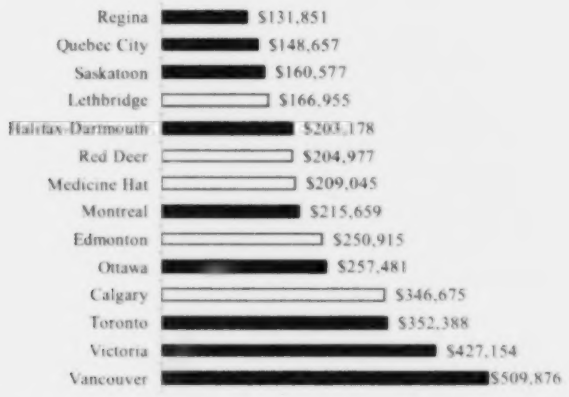
Home Ownership: Provincial Affordability Comparisons
Percentage of household income taken up by ownership costs
(A lower affordability index value indicates increased affordability)

	Detached Bungalow	Standard Two-Storey	Standard Townhouse	Standard Condominium
Canada*	39.4	44.9	31.7	27.5
British Columbia	62.5	67.8	47.7	33.3
Alberta	***37.7***	***41.7***	***27.8***	***25.2***
Saskatchewan	31.1	33.5	24.9	20.0
Manitoba	32.8	34.1	20.1	18.1
Ontario	36.4	42.1	29.9	27.1
Quebec	35.3	43.0	30.8	28.3
Atlantic Canada	29.4	34.4	24.8	24.8

*Population weighted average
Source: RBC Financial Group, *Housing Affordability* (March 2007)

Amongst Canada's largest urban areas in 2006, average home prices in Edmonton and Calgary remain competitive. The average home price in Calgary is 32.0% less than in Vancouver and the average home price in Edmonton is 28.8% lower than in Toronto. Home prices in Alberta's other urban centers are comparable to other cities across Canada.

Average House Price – 2006



Source: Canadian Real Estate Association

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE ALBERTA ADVANTAGE **1**

- Business Advantage 1
- Lifestyle Advantage. 1

ECONOMY **2**

- Alberta Economic Results. 2
- Economic Structure. 3
- Alberta Economic Indicators. 4

TAXATION **5**

- Personal Income Taxes. 6
- Interprovincial Tax and Health Care Premium Comparison. 7
- Municipal Taxation. 8
- Corporate Taxation. 8

REAL ESTATE **10**

- Industrial Real Estate 10
- Commercial Real Estate 11
- Residential Housing 12

LABOUR FORCE **13**

- Employment 13
- Skilled Labour 15
- Wages and Salaries 16
- Employment Standards 18

INVENTORY OF MAJOR ALBERTA PROJECTS **19**

TRANSPORTATION **20**

- Railways 20
- Highways 21
- Air Service 21

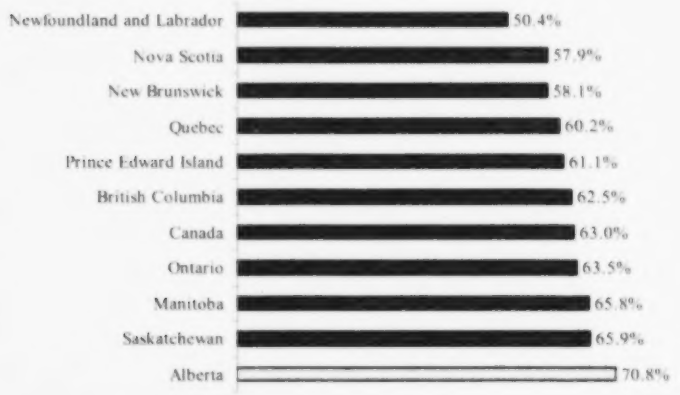
POST SECONDARY EDUCATION **22**

LABOUR FORCE

Employment

In 2006, Alberta had the highest labour force participation rate among the provinces at 73.4% in 2006, 6.2% higher than the national average. At the same time, Alberta also had the highest employment rate among the provinces at 70.8% and the lowest unemployment rate at 3.4%.

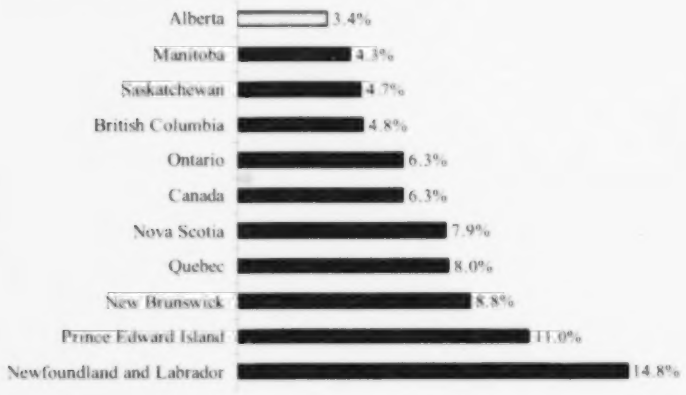
Employment Rates - 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, *Historical Labour Force Review 2006*

In 2006, Alberta had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 3.4% - well below the national average of 6.3%. Between 2005 and 2006, the number of people employed in Alberta grew by 4.8% or by 86,300. Between 1996 and 2006, the number of people employed grew by 465,600.

Unemployment Rates – 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, *Historical Labour Force Review 2006*

- University of Alberta 23
- University of Calgary 24
- University of Lethbridge 25
- Athabasca University 25
- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) 26
- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) 26
- Public and Private Colleges 27
- Educational Support 27

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY 29

- Research Funding at Universities 34
- World Class Research Infrastructure 34
- Research and Development Tax Credits 34

QUALITY OF LIFE 35

- Nature & Tourism Activities 35
- Recreational Activities 37
- Social & Cultural Activities 38

Employment by Industry - 2006

Sector	'000
Agriculture	52.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	139.3
Utilities	17.1
Construction	172.6
Manufacturing	137.5
Trade	282.4
Transportation and warehousing	106.2
Fin., insurance, real estate and leasing	96.2
Professional, scientific and tech. services	142.2
Business, bld. & other support services	62.7
Educational services	130.4
Health care and social assistance	179.5
Information, culture and recreation	68.3
Accommodation and food services	114.9
Other services	87.9
Public administration	81.1
All industries	**1870.7**

Employment by Occupation - 2006

Occupation	'000
Management occupations	155.3
Business, finance and administrative occupations	338.3
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	139.9
Health occupations	101.8
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	143.7
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	42.0
Sales and service occupations	426.7
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	340.5
Occupations unique to primary industry	110.2
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	72.1
All occupations	**1870.7**

Source: Statistics Canada, *Historical Labour Force Review 2006*

Alberta consistently has one of the best labour records of any province in Canada, in terms of fewest workdays lost due to strikes. Alberta's overall unionization is estimated at 24.6%, which is the lowest in Canada. However, it is the public sector (public administration, education and health) that makes up the bulk of this rate. The unionization rate in the private sector is 12.8%. According to Human Resources and Social Development Canada, the estimated number of person-days lost to labour disputes in Alberta in 2006 averaged 16.4 days per 1,000 paid workers (excludes self employed), compared to 58.2 days per 1,000 paid workers nationally.

Estimated Union Coverage - 2006

Sector	Total Employees ('000)	Unionized Employees ('000)	Percent Union Members
Agriculture	12.4	0.0	0.0%
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	122.0	11.5	9.4%
Utilities	16.9	8.3	49.1%
Construction	118.8	22.1	18.6%
Manufacturing	129.7	29.3	22.6%
Trade	252.3	29.4	11.7%
Transportation and warehousing	85.8	29.3	34.1%
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	76.9	4.9	6.4%
Professional, scientific and technical services	93.4	3.5	3.7%
Business, building and other support services	45.2	3.5	7.7%
Educational services	125.7	85.0	67.6%
Health care and social assistance	151.9	77.9	51.3%
Information, culture and recreation	59.8	12.6	21.1%
Accommodation and food services	107.4	3.9	3.6%
Other services	60.5	5.0	8.3%
Public administration	81.1	52.4	64.6%
Public sector	***324.8***	***223.0***	**68.7%**
Private sector	***1215.2***	***156.0***	**12.8%**
All Industries	**1540.0**	**378.6**	**24.6%**

Note: Excludes self-employed.
Source: Statistics Canada, *Historical Labour Force Review 2006*

Skilled Labour

In 2006, 60.0% of the labour force, 25 years of age and older, reported holding a university degree, post-secondary diploma or certificate. This is slightly less than the Canadian average of 62.5%.

Educational Attainment of Labour Force (25 years and older), Annual Averages, 2006

Educational Level	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	CA
0 - 8 years	5.0%	4.3%	2.9%	4.5%	4.7%	2.6%	3.2%	3.2%	1.8%	2.1%	3.1%
Some high school	10.5%	12.7%	10.4%	9.2%	9.4%	7.3%	11.4%	11.5%	9.4%	7.3%	8.5%
High school graduate	17.9%	19.8%	16.4%	22.8%	15.7%	20.6%	22.1%	23.4%	22.0%	21.7%	19.8%
Some post-secondary education	5.4%	5.7%	6.5%	6.0%	5.0%	5.6%	8.3%	7.1%	6.8%	8.8%	6.2%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	45.1%	38.9%	40.6%	38.6%	41.2%	35.0%	32.8%	35.4%	36.0%	34.1%	36.8%
University degree	16.2%	18.8%	23.2%	18.8%	24.0%	28.7%	22.1%	19.4%	24.0%	26.0%	25.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, *Historical Labour Force Review 2006*

In 2005, Alberta's labour productivity was higher than any other province's. Total value added per hour in Alberta was 108.6% of the Canadian average. The only other province to exceed the Canadian average of (100%) was Ontario with 103.7%. Alberta's manufacturing sector also had the highest productivity of all provinces, partly because of its highly productive chemical, machinery and food processing industries.

Standard of Living and Productivity by Province - 2005

Province	Standard of Living - 2005 (GDP/Capita)*	Labour Productivity of the Total Economy - 2005 (GDP/Hour)**	Labour Productivity in Manufacturing - 2005 (GDP/Hour)**
Alberta	**$66,636**	**$40.34**	**$48.94**
Ontario	$42,810	$38.53	$48.52
Saskatchewan	$43,330	$35.63	$41.49
Canada	*$42,460*	*$37.16*	*$45.43*
Newfoundland & Labrador	$41,802	$36.39	$30.24
British Columbia	$39,656	$35.89	$42.34
Quebec	$36,008	$35.89	$43.58
Manitoba	$35,503	$31.99	$30.50
Nova Scotia	$33,487	$29.92	$30.85
New Brunswick	$32,173	$30.43	$41.25
Prince Edward Island	$30,210	$25.93	$26.33

*Current dollar GDP
**Constant 1997 dollar GDP
Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry

THE ALBERTA ADVANTAGE

Business Advantage

Alberta has been blessed with an abundance of natural advantages that have formed the foundation of its thriving economy. The Alberta government has built on this foundation by engineering an economic plan and creating a positive business climate that encourages investment, helps to foster diversification of the economy and allows businesses to compete successfully around the globe. The result is one of the most vibrant and competitive economies in the world. Overall, Alberta's open and globally competitive business climate consists of:

- a strong and vibrant economy,
- a young, skilled and productive workforce,
- a strong commitment to innovation and knowledge-based progress,
- a highly entrepreneurial and competitive business community,
- a business-friendly province committed to responsible regulation,
- the lowest overall tax load of any province in Canada, including no provincial retail sales tax,
- a modern and efficient infrastructure,
- an abundance of natural resources,
- and a fiscally responsible provincial government.

Lifestyle Advantage

Each year, thousands of people move to Alberta, drawn by the economy and the exceptional standard of living. Alberta is a prosperous province, where residents share a rich natural environment and enjoy outstanding opportunities in recreation, arts and culture. In particular, Alberta offers:

- safe, modern cities and charming small towns and villages,
- cultural diversity,
- accessible education and health care,
- tremendous recreation and leisure opportunities,
- music, dance, film, literature, theatre and the visual arts experiences,
- sporting events, fairs and rodeos,
- internationally recognized museums, national parks and world heritage sites,
- and a clean, beautiful, natural environment.

Alberta's communities offer resources and expertise that meet your business needs. To find out more, visit the Alberta First.Com website (www.albertafirst.com).

ECONOMY

Alberta's economic climate remains strong despite fluctuating global cycles. An abundance of natural advantages has been the foundation of Alberta's flourishing economy. This, in addition to a positive investment climate, allows Alberta businesses to compete successfully around the world. Alberta's increasingly diversified economy has translated into healthy economic performance.

Alberta Economic Results

- Over the last two decades, Alberta had the highest rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in Canada, at 3.8% per year. In 2006, Alberta's economy grew by 6.8% and experts predict Alberta will have one of Canada's top performing economies for the foreseeable future.
- Alberta's exports of goods and services more than doubled between 1996 and 2006 to an estimated $90.1 billion. A growing number of those exports are manufactured products and services. Exports of manufactured goods more than doubled over the same period. Goods exports (excludes services) in 2006 increased by 1.4% from 2005.
- Alberta has a rapidly growing manufacturing base. Between 1996 and 2006, manufacturing shipments increased 110.0% to $64.4 billion.
- The province consistently has the highest investment per capita among provinces. In 2006, Alberta investment per capita was $22,296, more than twice the national average. A total of $75.3 billion was invested in 2006, more than double the 1996 level.
- Alberta's vibrant economy translates into a healthy job market. Average annual employment in the province in 2006 increased by 86,300 over 2005. Between 1996 and 2006, employment increased by approximately 465,600.
- Alberta's average unemployment rate in 2006 was the lowest in Canada, at 3.4%.

Interprovincial Indicators

Province	2006 Population (000s)	Unemployment Rate 2006 (%)	2006 GDP ($ millions)		Real Economic Growth (%, at 1997 Prices)			
			Current $	Constant $*	1996 - 2006	2005	2006	2007 (f)
Newfoundland and Labrador	510	14.8	21,486	15,719	4.2	0.4	2.8	6.4
Prince Edward Island	139	11.0	4,169	3,505	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.3
Nova Scotia	934	7.9	31,344	25,814	2.8	1.6	1.1	2.4
New Brunswick	749	8.8	24,162	21,773	2.7	0.3	2.6	3.1
Quebec	7,652	8.0	273,588	242,039	2.9	2.2	1.7	2.4
Ontario	12,687	6.3	537,657	493,126	3.7	2.8	1.9	2.0
Manitoba	1,178	4.3	41,681	37,052	2.6	2.7	3.3	3.6
Saskatchewan	985	4.7	42,897	34,292	2.0	3.1	0.4	3.2
Alberta	3,376	3.4	218,433	152,670	4.3	4.6	6.8	4.1
British Columbia	4,310	4.8	168,855	150,741	3.1	3.7	3.6	3.1
Canada	32,623	6.6	1,371,425	1,189,535	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.8

*2006 GDP in chained 1997 dollars

Sources: Statistics Canada; Conference Board of Canada (*Provincial Outlook - Spring 2007*)

Wages and Salaries

Alberta wage and salary rates are competitive with the rest of Canada and with the United States. When total compensation rates are compared, Alberta provides even more of a cost advantage compared to the U.S., largely because of publicly funded heath care.

General Minimum Wage Rate

BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
$8.00	$7.00 [1]	$7.95	$8.00	$8.00 [2]	$8.00	$7.25	$7.60	$7.50	$7.00

1 Increases to $8.00 (September 2007)
2 Increases to $8.75 (March 31, 2008), $9.50 (March 31, 2009), and $10.25 (March 31, 2010)
Source: Human Resources and Social Development Canada, January 2007

The *2005 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey* examined more than 303,000 full-time and part-time employees and covers close to 480 occupations. It can be used to find information on wages and salaries for full-time and part-time employees in Alberta by occupation, geographic area and industry group. The complete survey can be found online at www.alis.gov.ab.ca.

2005 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey – Select Occupation by Industry

Occupation by Industry	Average Hourly Wage Three Years Experience
Accommodation and Food Services Industry (Including Tourism)	
Cooks	$10.50
Food and Beverage Servers	$7.79
Agriculture Industry	
General Farm Workers	$13.70
Labourers in Food, Beverage and Tobacco Processing	$11.17
Business, Building, and Other Support Services Industry	
Receptionists and Switchboard Operators	$14.44
Residential and Commercial Installers and Servicers	$19.07
Construction Industry	
Electricians (Except Industrial and Power System)	$30.05
Plumbers	$23.42
Construction Trades Helpers and Labourers	$18.67
Educational Services Industry	
Secondary School Teachers	$27.93
Elementary School and Kindergarten Teachers	$28.34
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing Industry	
Financial Auditors and Accountants	$25.97
Insurance Agents and Brokers	$19.82
Customer Service Representatives - Financial Services	$16.67
Forestry, Logging, Fishing and Hunting Industry	
Supervisors, Logging and Forestry	$29.51
Chainsaw and Skidder Operators	$18.85
Health Care and Social Assistance Industry	
Pharmacists	$36.49
Registered Nurses (Nurse Practitioner)	$27.61
Physiotherapists	$32.67

....Continued

2005 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey – Select Occupation by Industry (continued)

Occupation by Industry	Average Hourly Wage Three Years Experience
Information, Culture and Recreation Industry (Including Tourism)	
Journalists (reporter)	$17.75
Tour and Travel Guides	$13.63
Manufacturing Industry	
Industrial and Manufacturing Engineers	$30.05
Process Control & Machine Operators, Food/Beverage Processing	$12.87
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction Industry	
Welders and Related Machine Operators	$22.81
Heavy Equipment Operators (Except Crane)	$22.50
Steamfitters and Pipefitters	$21.19
Oil and Gas Well Drilling Workers and Services Operators	$21.09
Other Services (Repair, Personal and Related) Industry	
Hairstylists and Barbers	$14.32
Automotive Service Technicians	$22.78
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services Industry	
Mechanical Engineers	$37.23
Computer Programmers	$24.72
Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	$28.64
Computer and Network Operators and Web Technicians	$29.05
Lawyers and Quebec Notaries	$43.82
Public Administration Industry	
Fire Chiefs and Senior Firefighting Officers	$28.27
Social Workers	$24.19
Retail Trade Industry	
Retail Salespersons and Sales Clerks	$14.93
Cashiers	$11.47
Transportation and Warehousing Industry	
Shippers and Receivers	$13.86
Truck Drivers	$19.68
Utilities Industry	
Utilities Managers	$31.22
Waterworks and Gas Maintenance Workers	$20.76
Wholesale Trade Industry	
Technical Sales Specialists	$26.76
Purchasing and Inventory Clerks	$19.07

Source: Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry

The Alberta Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) has taken major steps over the past several years to improve operations and reduce accident claims. The average actual premium rate in 2006 of $1.57 per $100 of insurable earnings was the lowest of all provinces and the third lowest in North America. In 2007, Alberta's average premium rate of $1.43 per $100 of insurable earnings remains the lowest in Canada.

Workers Compensation Board Premiums

2007 Assessment Rates* Per $100 Payroll

BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
$1.69	$1.43	$1.84	$1.68	$2.26	$2.24	$2.10	$2.65	$2.22	$2.75

*Provisional as of January 1, 2007

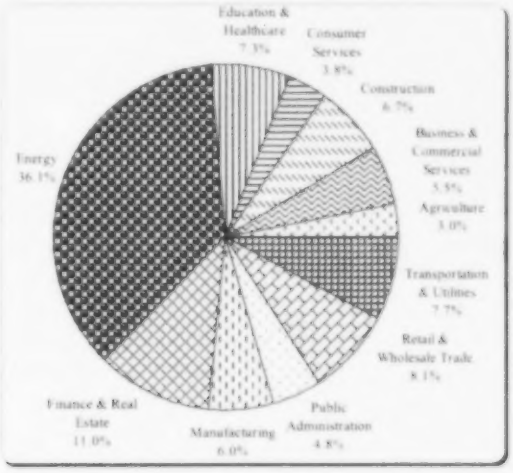
Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada

Economic Structure

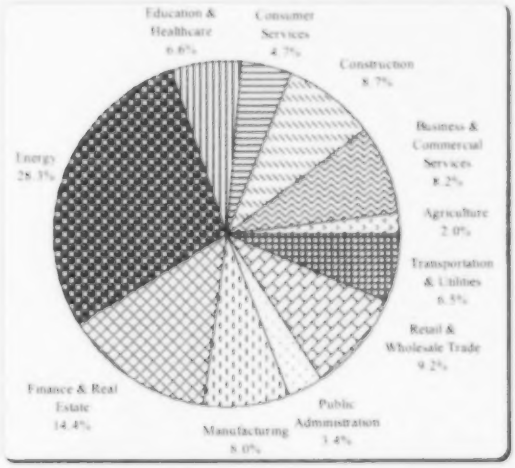
Energy remains the key driver of Alberta's buoyant economy, accounting for more than one-quarter of the province's GDP. However, compared to 1985, energy's contribution to GDP has declined from 36.1% to 28.3% in 2005, a result of the strong growth in other sectors of the economy.

The three non-energy sectors that registered the strongest expansion from 1985 to 2005 were the finance and real estate sector (11.0% to 14.4%), the business and commercial services sector (5.5% to 8.2%) and the manufacturing sector (6.0% to 8.0%). The combined contribution of these three sectors expanded from 22.5% in 1985 to 30.6% in 2005.

Distribution of GDP – 1985
Total GDP at Market Prices: $66.5 Billion



Distribution of GDP – 2005
Total GDP at Market Prices: $218.4 Billion



Source: Alberta Finance

Employment Standards

The majority of employees in Alberta are covered by the *Employment Standards Code*, a Statute of the Province of Alberta, which establishes minimum employment standards for employers and employees in the workforce. The code creates minimum standards in areas such as:

1. **Hours of work, payment of earnings and overtime pay**
   - In general, the maximum workday is 12 hours long.
   - An employer must allow employees at least one day of rest each week. Employees cannot be required to work more than 24 consecutive days unless the period is followed by at least four consecutive days of rest.
   - Employees must be paid at least once a month.
   - Hours over eight in a day and/or 44 in a week are considered overtime. Overtime is paid at 1.5 times the regular wage. Employers and employees may enter into a written overtime agreement. With the agreement, instead of overtime pay, employees receive time off with regular pay equal to the number of overtime hours worked.
2. **Vacation and vacation pay**
   - Entitlement of 2 weeks after 12 months of employment.
   - Entitlement of 3 weeks after 5 years of employment.
3. **Minimum wage rate**
   - $7.00 per hour. It will increase to $8.00 on September 1, 2007, and future minimum wage changes will occur on April 1 of each year, and will be indexed to changes in the average weekly wage.
4. **General holidays and general holiday pay**
   - In Alberta, the following are general holidays: New Year's Day; Alberta Family Day; Good Friday; Victoria Day; Canada Day; Labour Day; Thanksgiving Day; Remembrance Day; Christmas Day; and any other day designated as a general holiday by an employer.
5. **Minimum termination notice requirements that employers must give**
   - one week – for employment of more than three months, but less than two years
   - two weeks – for employment of two years, but less than four years
   - four weeks – for employment of four years, but less than six years
   - five weeks – for employment of six years, but less than eight years
   - six weeks – for employment of eight years, but less than 10 years
   - eight weeks – for employment of 10 years or more.
   - or the wages the employee would have earned for the applicable period of notice
6. **Parental benefits**
   - A birth mother will be able to take up to 52 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave from employment made up of 15 weeks maternity leave and 37 weeks of parental leave.
   - Fathers and/or adoptive parents are also eligible for 37 weeks of unpaid, job-protected parental leave. Adoptive parents can take parental leave regardless of the age of the adopted child.
   - Parental leave may be taken entirely by one of the parents or can be shared between both parents, but the total cannot exceed 37 weeks.

Alberta Economic Indicators

Indicator	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Y/Y % Change	
						2005	2006
Demographics:							
Population ('000's), as of July 1	3,116.3	3,161.4	3,207.0	3,277.6	3,375.8	2.2%	3.0%
Net international migration	12,387	12,973	13,448	16,938	22,971	26.0%	35.6%
Net inter-provincial migration	17,883	10,254	19,348	51,160	63,284	164.4%	23.7%
Labour Force:							
Employment ('000's)	1,670.8	1,716.7	1,757.5	1,784.4	1,870.7	1.5%	4.8%
Employment growth ('000's)	39.9	45.9	40.8	26.9	86.3	-	-
Full time ('000's)	1,373.9	1,407.6	1,440.2	1,477.6	1,570.1	2.6%	6.3%
Part time ('000's)	296.9	309.1	317.2	306.8	300.6	-3.3%	-2.0%
Unemployment rate (%)	5.3	5.1	4.6	3.9	3.4	-	-
Employment Insurance beneficiaries (average #)	32,489	33,931	28,887	22,390	18,660	-22.5%	-16.7%
Average weekly earnings ($, incl. overtime)	694.3	703.7	724.7	762.5	800.0	5.2%	4.9%
Wages and salaries ($ millions)	63,400	66,266	72,521	82,674	93,569	14.0%	13.2%
Gross Domestic Product:							
Gross Domestic Product, nominal ($ millions)	150,594	170,300	188,865	218,433	235,593	15.7%	7.9%
Gross Domestic Product, chained 1997$ (millions)	125,926	129,553	136,602	142,896	152,670	4.6%	6.8%
Real GDP growth (%)	2.2	2.9	5.4	4.6	6.8	-	-
Construction:							
Capital investment, construction and machinery & equipment ($ millions)	42,644	44,744	50,808	65,034	75,266	28.0%	15.7%
Capital investment per capita ($)	13,684	14,153	15,843	19,842	22,296	25.2%	12.4%
Capital investment, construction ($ millions)	27,551	28,984	33,992	44,382	55,660	30.6%	25.4%
Capital investment, machinery ($ millions)	15,092	15,760	16,816	20,652	19,605	22.8%	-5.1%
Building permits ($ millions)	6,847	6,667	7,327	10,202	13,886	39.2%	36.1%
Housing starts in all areas (number)	38,754	36,171	36,270	40,847	48,962	12.6%	19.9%
Consumer Spending and Income:							
Retail trade ($ millions)	37,663	39,318	43,372	48,493	56,047	11.8%	15.6%
Personal income per capita ($)	32,436	33,504	35,787	38,208	41,405	6.8%	8.4%
Personal disposable income per capita ($)	25,136	25,924	27,742	29,520	32,109	6.4%	8.8%
New car sales (number)	204,805	194,449	196,156	222,361	248,733	13.4%	11.9%
MLS, units sold	51,042	51,334	57,460	65,866	74,350	14.6%	12.9%
MLS, average price ($)	170,253	182,845	194,769	218,266	285,383	12.1%	30.7%
Consumer Price Index (2002=100)	100.0	104.4	105.9	108.1	112.3	2.1%	3.9%
Consumer bankruptcies (number)	8,234	9,160	8,719	7,542	5,248	-13.5%	-30.4%
International Trade:							
International exports - goods ($ millions)	48,931	57,044	66,992	80,181	81,297	19.7%	1.4%
International exports - goods & services ($ millions)	56,536	64,703	75,144	88,224	90,054	17.4%	2.1%
Business Entry & Exit:							
Incorporations (number)	30,142	32,569	34,317	40,325	48,207	17.5%	19.5%
Business bankruptcies (number)	1,998	1,636	1,565	1,194	666	-23.7%	-44.2%
Manufacturing:							
Manufacturing shipments ($ millions)	45,407	48,076	53,818	60,263	64,434	12.0%	6.9%
Wholesale:							
Wholesale trade ($ millions)	38,758	41,868	47,221	54,551	61,754	15.5%	13.2%
Agriculture:							
Farm cash receipts ($ millions)	8,262	7,049	8,024	7,854	7,796	-2.1%	-0.7%

Sources: Industry Canada, Service Alberta, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canadian Real Estate Association, Statistics Canada, and Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry

TAXATION

Albertans have the lowest overall personal taxes in Canada

- Alberta's personal tax advantage results from a low single rate tax system, including the highest basic and spousal exemptions in the country, no general sales tax and the lowest gasoline tax rate among the provinces.

Alberta businesses have the lowest overall business taxes in Canada

- Alberta's business tax advantage results from low corporate income tax rates, no capital tax, no general sales tax, no payroll tax, and the lowest gasoline tax among the provinces.

Major Provincial Tax Rates, July 2007

		BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Corporate Income Tax											
General Rate	(%)	12.0	10.0	13.0	14.0	14.0	9.9/11.9 [1]	12.0	16.0	16.0	14.0
Mfg. & Proc. Rate	(%)	12.0	10.0	10-13 [2]	14.0	12.0	9.9/11.9 [1]	12.0	16.0	16.0	5.0
Small Business											
Rate	(%)	4.5	3.0	4.5	3.0	5.5	8.0	1.5	5.0	4.3	5.0
Threshold	($'000)	400	430	450	400	400	400	475	400	400	400
Capital Tax											
General	(max %)	-	-	-	0.5	0.285	0.49	0.2	0.237	-	-
Financial Institutions	(max %)	3.0	-	3.25	3.0	0.855	1.23 [3]	3.0	4.0	5.0	4.0
Health Care Premiums											
Indiv./ family (max)	($/month)	54/108	44/88	-	-	75	-	-	-	-	-
Employer Payroll Tax	(max %)	-	-	-	2.15	1.95	4.26	-	-	-	2.0
General Sales Tax	(%)	7.0	-	5.0	7.0	8.0	7.5 [4]	8.0	8.0	10.0 [4]	8.0
Fuel Tax											
Gasoline**	(¢/litre)	14.5 [5]	9.0	15.0	11.5	14.7	15.2 [5,6]	10.7 [6]	15.5 [6]	20.7 [9]	16.5 [6]
Tobacco Tax	($/ctn)	35.80	37.00	35.60 [6]	35.00 [6]	24.70	20.60	23.50 [6]	33.04 [6]	34.90	36.00 [6]
Hotel Room Tax* **	(%)	8.0 [7]	4.0 [8]	5.0	7.0	5.0	7.5	8.0	8.0	10.0	8.0

1. The 11.9% is for financial institutions and oil refining companies.
2. The general corporate tax rate is reduced by up to 3 points based on the share of a corporation's national manufacturing and processing income allocated to Saskatchewan.
3. The Quebec financial institutions capital tax includes the base rate of 1.20% and a compensatory tax of 0.25%.
4. These provinces apply their retail sales tax on the retail price of the good inclusive of GST.
5. An additional 6 ¢/L is imposed in the greater Vancouver area, 2.5 in Victoria, and 1.5 in Montreal.
6. These provinces apply their retail sales tax on the retail price of the good inclusive of the particular excise tax.
7. Victoria and Vancouver impose an additional 2% hotel room tax.
8. Tourism levy where money is dedicated to tourism marketing and development.
9. This rate is based on a 11.5 cent per litre base rate and 10.7% of the average wholesale price is recalculated on a monthly basis.

Source: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Tax Facts and Figures 2007*; Alberta Finance.

INVENTORY OF MAJOR ALBERTA PROJECTS

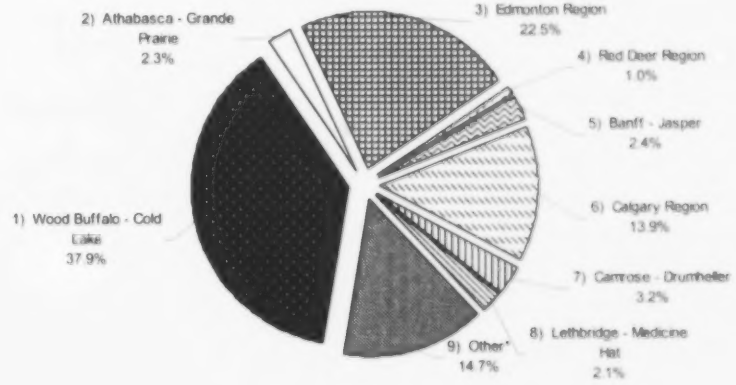
The *Inventory of Major Alberta Projects*, published by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry, tracks projects valued at $5 million or greater that are planned, underway, or have been recently completed.

As of June 2007, the value of Alberta's major construction projects totalled $183 billion. The Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake region accounted for 37.9%, followed by the Edmonton region at 22.5% and the Calgary region at 13.9%.

More than half of Alberta's capital projects were oil sands related. Oil sands investment totalled $111 billion in June with several bitumen upgrader projects currently under construction and planned for completion in the next five years. The infrastructure sector was second with $11 billion in major construction projects.

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS	JUNE 2007
	Investment ($ 000,000)
1) Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake	69,169.4
2) Athabasca - Grande Prairie	4,275.2
3) Edmonton Region	41,158.5
4) Red Deer Region	1,769.7
5) Banff - Jasper	4,473.9
6) Calgary Region	25,308.6
7) Camrose - Drumheller	5,772.5
8) Lethbridge - Medicine Hat	3,907.9
9) Other*	26,807.1
Total	182,642.8

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
Total $183 billion - June 2007


2) Athabasca - Grande Prairie 2.3%
3) Edmonton Region 22.5%
4) Red Deer Region 1.0%
5) Banff - Jasper 2.4%
6) Calgary Region 13.9%
7) Camrose - Drumheller 3.2%
8) Lethbridge - Medicine Hat 2.1%
9) Other* 14.7%
1) Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake 37.9%

TRANSPORTATION

Alberta's transportation infrastructure plays a critical role in the province's economy. The province's strength as a major exporter of primary commodities and manufactured products to the global marketplace is supported by a highly efficient and competitive transportation and logistics system.

Alberta has emerged as the western North American warehouse and distribution hub for Canada and the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. Alberta is the only western province that offers overnight, or less than 24-hour delivery service to all of western Canada and the U.S. Pacific Northwest. With direct connections to two of North America's largest highway trade corridors, quick and efficient access to the southern U.S. and Mexican markets is available.

Distances to Major Markets (kilometres)

Canada	Edmonton	Calgary
Montreal	3,551	3,582
Regina	780	758
Saskatoon	523	610
Toronto	3,356	3,387
Vancouver	1,189	957
Winnipeg	1,295	1,326
United States	**Edmonton**	**Calgary**
Chicago	2,610	2,553
Dallas	3,175	2,991
Denver	2,045	1,765
Detroit	3,035	2,978
Los Angeles	2,745	2,460
Minneapolis	2,228	1,920
Portland	1,521	1,252
San Francisco	2,380	2,111
Seattle	1,298	1,067

Source: Household Goods Carrier's Bureau - Mileage Guide

Railways

Two transcontinental railway companies, Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), service Alberta. Both companies provide highly efficient and competitive service in the movement of export commodities such as petrochemicals, forest products, grain, coal, fertilizers and sulphur to major ports, and throughout the U.S. and Mexico. A modern network of intermodal terminals is strategically located at Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Calgary, Edmonton,

Research Funding at Alberta Universities

Alberta's research universities rank among the best in Canada in terms of sponsored research revenue, an indicator of excellence and capacity. In 2005/2006, these universities received $632 million in sponsored research funding, an increase of 45% over the past five years. Over the past nine years, they have received a total of $3.8 billion in sponsored research funding.

Since 1997/1998, provincial government funding for university research has tripled, reaching $173.7 million in 2005/2006, a firm indication of Alberta's commitment towards science and innovation. Over the same period, federal government research funding to Alberta research universities has more than tripled to $280.2 million and the level of sponsored research funding provided to universities by non-governmental sources (primarily industry and non-profit organizations) more than doubled to $157.5 million.

Alberta's major research universities generate funding through the activities of their respective technology transfer programs: TEC Edmonton for the University of Alberta, University Technologies International Inc. for the University of Calgary, and the Technology Transfer Office for the University of Lethbridge. In 2005/2006, these universities filed 132 patents, were issued 36 patents, formed six start-up companies, and received $5.7 million in gross licensing revenues.

World-Class Research Infrastructure

Alberta researchers have access to some of the leading technology in the world. It is the research capacity established by this high quality infrastructure that attracts and retains the best researchers, those who generate new knowledge, who address pressing needs in our society, and who train the best students to take that knowledge into the workforce.

Highly trained and skilled researchers and students are critical for building, attracting and retaining successful companies to fuel Alberta's economy. Alberta is committed to ensuring its researchers have access to the equipment they need. To that end, in 2006-07, the Alberta Science and Research Investments Program (ASRIP) committed significant funds in support of research equipment at post-secondary institutions in Alberta. These funds will support fourteen technology platforms, including high performance computing, equipment to support improved oil sands recovery and the labs required to address prion diseases such as BSE.

Research & Development Tax Credits

The Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program (SR&ED) is a federal tax incentive program to encourage Canadian businesses of all sizes and in all sectors to conduct research and development (R&D) in Canada. The SR&ED Program is the largest single source of federal government support for industrial research and development.

Claimants can apply for SR&ED investment tax credits for expenditures such as wages, materials, machinery, equipment, some overhead, and SR&ED contracts.

Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Dryden, Toronto, Montreal, Moncton and Halifax for movement of containerized cargo to the United States and international markets.

Highways

Alberta has more than 30,800 km of provincial highways that form an extensive network throughout the province. Approximately 26,500 km are paved and 4,300 km are gravelled. First class arterial roads and highways connect Alberta to the North American highway system. Primary highways in the province have good pavement conditions and support high load limits and truck dimensions.

Alberta is enhancing its section of the Canada, America and Mexico (CANAMEX) corridor, which links the three countries and stretches about 6,000 km from Anchorage, Alaska to Mexico City, Mexico. The goals of the CANAMEX corridor are to improve access for the north-south flow of goods and people; increase transport productivity and reduce transport costs; promote a seamless and efficient inter-modal transport system; and reduce administration and enforcement costs through harmonized regulations.

Air Service

Alberta has a network of 160 regional, community and international airports. The province is home to several air taxi, commuter, airline and special flight operations. Alberta also has ambulance, forest fire suppression, agriculture crop spraying, aerial mapping and remote sensing, corporate aviation, recreational flying and flying education services.

Two world-class international airports, located at Calgary and Edmonton, service Alberta. These airports have 24-hour cargo services, modern cargo terminals and U.S. pre-clearance facilities. They are used by major international airlines and provide direct passenger and cargo services to many North American and international destinations. They are also the major gateways to northern Canada.

Calgary International Airport, which serves as the hub for air traffic in the prairies, has the largest civil aviation runway in Canada measuring 3,863 metres. It is Canada's fourth busiest airport by passenger volume, handling 11.3 million passengers in 2006. Calgary International Airport's passenger growth over the past four years is up 43%, making it Canada's fastest growing airport. Calgary International Airport is the only Canadian airport strategically located on the crossroads of the TransCanada (east-west) and CANAMEX (north-south) Highways.

The Edmonton International Airport is Canada's most northerly 24-hour international airport. It is the second largest airport in Canada measured by landmass, comprising an area of over 7,000 acres. Annual passenger movement is more than 4.3 million, making Edmonton International Airport Canada's fifth busiest airport. Strategically located, Edmonton International Airport is conveniently situated adjacent to the major highway linking Edmonton and Calgary; near the Yellowhead TransCanada Highway that connects Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Vancouver; and the CANAMEX corridor.

Generally, a Canadian-controlled private corporation (CCPC) can earn an investment tax credit (ITC) of 35% up to the first $2 million of qualified expenditures for SR&ED carried out in Canada, and 20% on any excess amount. Other Canadian corporations, proprietorships, partnerships, and trusts can earn an ITC of 20% of qualified expenditures for SR&ED carried out in Canada.

Normally, a CCPC with a taxable income in the immediately preceding year that does not exceed the business limit may receive a portion of the ITC earned as a refund, after applying these tax credits against taxes payable.

The ITC earned by a Canadian corporation that is not a CCPC is non-refundable, but may be used to reduce any taxes payable. The ITC earned by a proprietorship or certain trusts may be partially refunded after applying these tax credits against taxes payable.

To qualify for the SR&ED Program, work must advance the understanding of scientific relations or technologies, address scientific or technological uncertainty, and incorporate a systematic investigation by qualified personnel.

Work that qualifies for SR&ED tax credits includes:

- experimental development to achieve technological advancement through the creation of new materials, devices, products, or processes, or improve existing ones;
- applied research to advance scientific knowledge with a specific practical application in view;
- basic research to advance scientific knowledge without a specific practical application in view; and
- support work in engineering, design, operations research, mathematical analysis, computer programming, data collection, testing, or psychological research, but only if the work is commensurate with, and directly supports the eligible experimental development of applied or basic research.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Every year, thousands of people from the rest of Canada are drawn to Alberta, a province well known for its exceptional standard of living. Alberta is a prosperous province, where residents share a rich natural environment, and enjoy outstanding opportunities in recreation, arts and culture.

Nature & Tourism Activities

Albertans have a big, beautiful backyard to play in. Alberta's provincial parks and protected areas provide access to some of the most spectacular natural landscapes in North America, including more dinosaur fossils than any other single spot on the planet; the world's only boreal forest songbird observatories; the largest collection of aboriginal rock art on the North American Plains; glaciers and majestic mountains and so much more. Alberta contains a diversity of natural landscapes that few other places can match with its vast forests, pristine lakes, wide-open prairies and the magnificent Rocky Mountains.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Albertans are among the best-educated people in North America. Alberta's post-secondary system has a total of 28 institutions, including: four universities, two technical institutes, 14 public colleges, seven private university colleges that receive public funding, and the Banff Centre. The combination of these facilities helps to provide one of the most highly educated workforces in North America

Alberta's four universities have over 114,000 full- and part-time students. About 257,000 full- and part-time students are enrolled in the public post-secondary education system. In addition, Alberta has around 46,500 registered apprentices in 51 trades.

Unduplicated Student Headcounts and Full Load Equivalents By Sector and Institution

Publicly Funded Post Secondary Institutions: 2005-2006

	Full Time Students	Part Time Students	Total Students	Full Load Equivalents (FLEs)
University of Alberta (including Augustana)	34,012	5,867	39,879	32,264
University of Calgary	23,685	6,998	30,683	23,190
University of Lethbridge	7,907	1,441	9,348	6,974
Athabasca University	4,449	29,782	34,231	6,743
University Total	**70,053**	**44,088**	**114,141**	**69,171**
Alberta College of Art and Design	1,054	262	1,316	943
Bow Valley College	3,308	7,676	10,984	3,941
Grande Prairie Regional College	1,534	813	2,347	1,347
Grant MacEwan College	11,481	5,813	17,294	10,347
Keyano College	1,734	680	2,414	1,283
Lakeland College	2,754	4,660	7,414	1,938
Lethbridge Community College	4,864	1,944	6,808	3,954
Medicine Hat College	2,809	2,909	5,718	2,415
Mount Royal College	8,477	4,088	12,565	7,808
NorQuest College	4,100	3,273	7,373	4,197
Northern Lakes College	822	532	1,354	864
Olds College	1,434	1,106	2,540	1,305
Portage College	1,303	1,549	2,852	1,070
Red Deer College	5,457	1,119	6,576	3,640
College Total	**51,131**	**36,424**	**87,555**	**45,051**
NAIT	19,335	4,969	24,304	11,621
SAIT	14,871	10,677	25,548	10,716
Technical Institute Total	**34,206**	**15,646**	**49,852**	**22,338**
Alliance University College	222	242	464	189
Canadian Nazarene University College	200	244	444	178
Canadian University College	375	103	478	354
Concordia University College of Alberta	1,756	407	2,163	1,526
St. Mary's University College	424	87	511	325
Taylor University College & Seminary	233	49	282	214
The King's University College	597	66	663	519
Private University College Total	**3,807**	**1,198**	**5,005**	**3,305**
SYSTEM TOTAL	**159,197**	**97,356**	**256,553**	**139,865**

Note: Enrolments for the Banff Centre are not included. They do not report enrolment through the Learner Enrolment Reporting System (LERS), therefore no full-time or part-time student data is available. The Banff Centre offers unique programming that is not considered credit instruction, however they are publicly funded

Source: Alberta Advanced Education and Technology

Alberta Universities and Technical Institutes

University of Alberta

Founded in 1908, the University of Alberta (U of A) has grown to become one of Canada's foremost research-intensive universities. In 2005/2006, the U of A attracted more than $400 million in external research funding. It is Canada's second largest English-speaking university, serving more than 36,000 students in more than 200 undergraduate and 170 graduate programs. The U of A also offers liberal arts education in a rural setting at the Augustana Campus in Camrose.

The University of Alberta is the largest research institution in the province and ranks among the top four Canadian universities in annual sponsored research funding (including clinical trials and related research). Since 1988/1989, the University of Alberta has received $3.4 billion for research from external sources. Because of its focus on research, the U of A ranks among the top six Canadian universities for total annual sponsored research funding from the three federal government granting councils: the Canadian Institute for Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. U of A researchers participate actively in 18 of 21 (2004/2005) federal Networks of Centres of Excellence that link industry, universities, and the government in applied research and development.

Full-Time Equivalent Enrolment*
By Faculty
2005-2006

Agriculture/Forestry/Home Economics	1,834
Arts	6,369
Business	2,305
Education	3,575
Engineering	3,597
Graduate Studies	*5,454*
Law	511
Medicine and Dentistry	1,623
Native Studies	168
Nursing	1,545
Open Studies	684
Physical Education and Recreation	927
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	522
Rehabilitation Medicine	220
Faculté Saint-Jean	601
Science	6,258
Total	**36,193**

*The full year FTE enrollment count uses Fall and Spring/Summer seasonal headcounts. Part-time graduate student counts are divided by 3, part-time undergraduate counts by 4. Each fall full-time student is counted as 1.0.

Source: *University of Alberta Data Book*, University of Alberta

Between 1994 and March 2006, the U of A:

- recorded more than 1,000 invention reports,
- received more than 350 patents,
- issued more than 250 licenses/options to use technologies,
- generated licensing and royalty revenue of about $30 million
- and 'spun-off' 71 active companies, employing more than 1,000 people.

For Further Information:

Office of Public Affairs
6th Floor, General Services Building
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T6G 2H1
Phone: (780) 492-2325
Website: www.ualberta.ca

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The University of Calgary (U of C), founded in 1945, has established a reputation as one of Canada's top research institutions with sponsored research funding revenues of $252 million in 2006. The U of C is home to scholars in 16 faculties (offering more than 80 academic programs) and 36 research institutes and centres, 4,900 academic and support staff, and 28,000 full-time equivalent undergraduate and graduate students. At present, the university has embarked upon a $1.5 billion plan to add capacity for 7,000 more students and a host of new teaching and research activities.

In 2006, the U of C was welcomed into the G13 group of Canada's leading research universities with research funding ranking among the top ten. The university belongs to 15 Networks of Centres of Excellence (2004/2005), an innovative national approach to research and development designed to develop Canada's economy and improve the Canadian quality of life. About 75 chairs and professorships in such areas as American studies, schizophrenia, project management, cancer, and intelligent manufacturing attract renowned scholars and leading researchers to the U of C. Government and industry jointly support more than 30 endowed chairs at the university.

Full-Time Students by Faculty
2005-2006

Combined Degree students*	1,018
Communication & Culture	1,780
Education	877
Fine Arts	401
Graduate Studies	*4,046*
Haskayne School of Business	1,881
Humanities	1,105
Kinesiology	549
Law	217
Medicine	1,104
Non-Degree	73
Nursing	694
Schulich School of Engineering	2,508
Science	3,586
Social Sciences	3,419
Social Work	340
Total	**23,598**

*Combined degree students are registered in degree programs in two or more faculties.
Source: Office of Institutional Analysis, University of Calgary

The U of C is a leader in collaborative research relationships and partnerships with academia, government, private and non-profit organizations.

- Companies spun-off from research and innovation at the university are valued at more than half a billion dollars.
- The U of C is among the top four universities in Canada in revenue generated from licensing activity.

For Further Information:

University Communications
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4
Phone: (403) 220-3500
Website: www.ucalgary.ca

University of Lethbridge

The University of Lethbridge (U of L) offers full degree programs in arts and science, education, health sciences, fine arts, and management to more than 7,000 full time equivalent students. The U of L has a focus on liberal arts, selected professional programs, smaller classes, co-op placements, and involvement of students in faculty research. There are six faculties and schools at the U of L offering over 150 undergraduate program options. Many courses are also offered on U of L campuses in Edmonton and Calgary.

The U of L is one of the few Canadian universities committed to a liberal arts undergraduate education. The Centre for the Arts at the U of L was designed to bring together the teaching faculties of art, music and theatre/drama, and to provide teaching spaces tailored to their specific needs.

Additional Information: The Registrar's Office and Student Services
The University of Lethbridge
4401 University Drive
Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 3M4
Phone: (403) 320-5700
Website: www.uleth.ca

Athabasca University

Athabasca University (AU) is Canada's leading distance-education and online university. AU serves close to 32,000 students per year. Approximately 260,000 students have registered in AU's individualized courses and programs since the university was created by the Government of Alberta in 1970.

AU offers full bachelor degree programs and university transfer courses in the natural and pure sciences, humanities, social sciences, interdisciplinary studies, administrative studies, commerce, nursing and allied professional fields. At the graduate level, the university offers degree programs in distance education, health studies, and business administration. AU's programs are predominately available through individualized study. Course materials are designed specifically for distance and online learners.

Additional Information: Public Affairs
Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca, Alberta T9S 3A3
Phone: 1-800-788-9041
Website: www.athabascau.ca

THE NORTHERN ALBERTA
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) is one of Canada's finest and largest technical training institutes. NAIT is Alberta's third largest post-secondary educational institution with approximately 17,500 full-time and apprenticeship students and 50,000 continuing education registrations. NAIT trains more than half of Alberta's registered apprentices and nearly one-fifth of Canada's registered apprentices.

NAIT is a leader in technical training and applied education designed to meet the demands of Alberta's industries. NAIT confers certificates, diplomas, and applied degrees. The Institute has 250 programs, including 34 apprenticeship offerings and over 1,200 continuing education courses. The NAIT HP Centre for Information and Communications Technology is one of the most technologically advanced facilities in the world. The Centre provides a leadi g-edge environment for applied technology and research.

Additional Information: Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
11762 – 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 3H1
Phone: 1-800-661-4077
Website: www.nait.ab.ca

Since it was founded in 1916, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) has become a world leader in providing state-of-the-practice technological training. In recent years, SAIT has developed extensive partnerships in industry to create eleven world-class Centres of Technology Development. The Centres are visible symbols of its reputation as an industry driven technical institute.

SAIT is known worldwide for its quality technical education and hands-on training. More than 1,000 private and public sector professionals provided advice and guidance to ensure that what is taught in the classroom is what's required in the workplace. SAIT provides education and first class training to more than 75,000 individuals each year in 99 apprenticeship, applied degree, diploma and certificate programs.

Additional Information: Southern Alberta Institute of Alberta
1301 – 16 Avenue NW
Calgary, Alberta T2M 0L4
Phone: 1-877-284-SAIT (7248)
Website: www.sait.ab.ca

Public and Private Colleges

Alberta has an extensive network of public and private accredited colleges. These institutions offer academic upgrading, job readiness, apprenticeship, certificate, diploma, university transfer and applied degree programs. Alberta's 14 public colleges include:

- Alberta College of Art and Design (Calgary)
- Bow Valley College (Calgary)
- Grande Prairie Regional College (Grande Prairie)
- MacEwan College (Edmonton)
- Keyano College (Fort McMurray)
- Lakeland College (Lloydminster, Vermilion, Sherwood Park)
- Lethbridge Community College (Lethbridge)
- Medicine Hat College (Medicine Hat, Brooks)
- Mount Royal College (Calgary)
- NorQuest College (Edmonton, Stony Plain, Wetaskiwin)
- Northern Lakes College (Grouard, Slave Lake)
- Olds College (Olds)
- Portage College (St. Paul, Cold Lake, Lac La Biche)
- Red Deer College (Red Deer)

Alberta's private colleges offer programs leading to bachelor degrees. The Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) reviews all proposals for new degree programs from both public and private institutions to ensure they are of high quality before they are approved. The Council also conducts periodic evaluations of approved degree programs to ensure that quality standards continue to be met. Alberta has seven private colleges accredited to grant specific academic degrees at the university level. These include:

- Alliance / Nazarene University College (Calgary)
- Canadian University College (Lacombe)
- Concordia University College of Alberta (Edmonton)
- DeVry Institute of Technology (Calgary)
- The King's University College (Edmonton)
- St. Mary's University College (Calgary)
- Taylor University College and Seminary (Edmonton)

In addition, The Banff Centre is a publicly funded institution that provides advanced continuing education opportunities in fine arts, management studies, language training and environmental training for people who already have academic credentials and/or professional experience in their discipline.

Educational Support

Alberta's education system continues to be among the best in the world and is staying at the forefront by providing students with the tools they need to achieve their potential. Investments in schools, universities, colleges and technical institutes are increasing, so they can provide high quality and affordable education.

Basic Education - Program spending for education in Budget 2006 is over $5.1 billion, a 6.8% increase over 2005/2006. Additional funding will give school boards increased capacity to manage current education initiatives giving the province the flexibility to address local education needs. The province's per student and per capita spending on basic education continues to be among the highest in Canada.

Advanced Education – Over the next three years, funding for the post-secondary education system will increase by $474 million or by 29%, with $1.1 billion in capital support for post-secondary facilities. Additional funding is being provided to address enrollment growth and expand apprenticeship training. In 2006/2007, the government will continue to pay for tuition increases at public post-secondary institutions.

In 2005, the Alberta Centennial Education Plan was launched. The plan will contribute $500 to the Registered Education Savings Plan of every child born to Alberta residents in 2005 and beyond. The program is designed to give parents an incentive to start planning and saving for their child's post-secondary education as early as possible

The Government of Alberta is committed to encouraging and rewarding the excellence of Alberta students by offering scholarships through the Achievement Scholarship program, the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, and need-based bursaries.

The Alberta government established the Achievement Scholarships program in 2000 to recognize the excellence of Alberta students. This program includes the Jason Lang Scholarship, the Jimmie Condon Athletic Scholarship, and the Graduate Student Scholarship.

The Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund was designed to stimulate the pursuit of excellence by rewarding outstanding achievement and encouraging and assisting Albertans to achieve their fullest potential. The scholarships and awards support Albertans in many areas including academics, the arts, community involvement and athletics. The scholarship fund currently administers over 40 different scholarships and has a yearly budget in excess of $23 million. The Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund accepts donations from individuals, corporations, organizations and other groups for the express purpose of providing scholarships.

The Alberta Opportunities Bursary, a cost-shared partnership among post-secondary institutions, the private sector, and government, will help financially needy Alberta adults to further their education. The intent of the program is to ease the burden of above-average debt carried by some students while attending full-time studies.

In 2005, the Government of Alberta announced the Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship Program, in honour of The Queen's visit to Alberta in May 2005, to commemorate the province's centennial year. The program will provide awards to Canadian citizens or permanent residents who are enrolled full-time in a master or doctoral program at a designated Alberta university.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

Alberta has a strong research community committed to making this province the best place in North America to live, work and do business. The Government of Alberta's investment in research and development, on a per capita basis, is the highest in Canada and amongst the highest in North America.

Alberta Science and Research Authority

Created in 1994, the Alberta Science and Research Authority (ASRA) is an independent board of members from Alberta's academic, business and research communities, appointed by provincial Cabinet. ASRA was established to maximize the effectiveness of science and research as an integral component to the success of the province.

ASRA's mission is to enhance the contribution of science and research and innovation to the sustainable prosperity and quality of life of all Albertans. In order to fulfill this mission ASRA functions as the senior science and research body of the Government of Alberta and works collaboratively with government departments and agencies and other stakeholders. Alberta's excellent science and research infrastructure (including people, knowledge, equipment, and facilities) forms the basis for the development, adoption and commercialization of new technology, products and processes that are recognized and sold globally.

Alberta Life Sciences Institute

The Alberta Life Sciences Institute (ALSI) is an unincorporated board comprising representatives from industry, academia and government. The life sciences sector focuses on expanding the knowledge of living organisms and using that knowledge to improve lives.

Agriculture, energy, forestry, health, and information and communications technology are all important parts of Alberta's economy. The life sciences unite these sectors to create new opportunities to diversify and expand the province's economy. ALSI focuses on the following areas of opportunity:

- bio-products innovation,
- health innovation,
- resource management innovation,
- and building the base.

Alberta Agricultural Research Institute

AARI is the primary agency in Alberta for funding, coordinating and promoting strategic agricultural initiatives in research, development and technology transfer for the agriculture and agri-food sector.

AARI is an unincorporated board established by the *Alberta Science and Research Authority Act* and funds numerous projects each year that play a significant role in advancing Alberta's position as a global player in the agriculture and food sector. The board is appointed by the Minister of

Advanced Education and Technology. AARI's mission is to align the direction and priority for strategic research in bio-products, sustainable production and food for health. Successful innovation in research, development and deployment will serve to improve the quality of life for all Albertans.

Alberta Forestry Research Institute

AFRI is an unincorporated board established by the *Alberta Science and Research Authority Act*, representing academia and research communities, with a mission to foster and champion forest management and utilize research and innovation as a key driver for economic diversification and growth within Alberta's bioeconomy. The board is appointed by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. The Institute has three priorities:

- sustainable forest management to enable environmentally and socially responsible industrial and recreational opportunities on forested landscapes,
- production efficiency/value chain enhancement to improve competitiveness through reproduced input and process costs,
- and, new products that will build Alberta's bioeconomy through opportunities related to fibre and other forest-related resources.

AFRI's role is to facilitate the collaborations and alliances required to build innovation across a range of sectors, by:

- leading and seeding strategic forest innovation opportunities,
- catalyzing and aligning the forest innovation system to support the competitiveness of the forest sector and the province's long-term bioeconomy objectives,
- and, monitoring performance of the forest innovation system.

Alberta Energy Research Institute

AERI is an unincorporated board established under the *Alberta Science and Research Authority Act* and is comprised of representatives from industry, academia and government that are appointed by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. AERI leads the development and implementation of the Energy Innovation Strategy to secure Alberta's position as a clean energy provider for the future.

AERI serves as the energy technology arm of the Alberta Government. AERI works with industry and other government ministries to promote innovation and technology that will enhance the sustainable development of the province's abundant energy sources.

AERI invests in research and technology innovation in areas of importance for Alberta. These include oil and gas, heavy oil and oil sands, clean coal, renewable energy, CO_2 and water management.

Alberta Information and Communications Technology Institute

The Alberta Information and Communications Technology Institute (AICTI) was created by the Government of Alberta through the *Alberta Science and Research Authority Act* in 2005. The board is appointed by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology and is comprised of nationally and internationally recognized leaders from academia, industry and research. The board provides leadership and guidance in expanding Alberta's information and communications technology sector (ICT). The AICTI Institute will review and update the provincial ICT strategy "Information and Communications Technology: A Strategy for Alberta". This strategy has led to successful projects and the creation of substantial infrastructure. Some important outcomes from this strategy include:

- the Alberta SuperNet,
- the Alberta Informatics Circle of Research Excellence (iCORE),
- Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Machine Learning,
- investments in high-performance computing infrastructure through WestGrid and Netera,
- and the establishment of the National Institute for Nanotechnology.

Alberta Research Council

The Alberta Research Council (ARC) was founded in 1921 and operated as a provincial corporation under the *Alberta Research Council Act* until 1999, when it was incorporated as a not-for-profit business under the *Business Corporations Act*. A wholly-owned subsidiary of the Crown, ARC is governed by a seven-member board of directors drawn from the private, and higher education sectors.

ARC is an applied research and development (R&D) corporation that bridges the gap between basic research and the market. It specializes in converting early stage ideas into marketable technology products and services. ARC provides integrated prototyping, product development, testing and technology commercialization services to advance research priorities important to Alberta and enhance the competitiveness and success of Alberta companies in the following key areas:

- Industrial bio-products,
- Bitumen and heavy oil recovery,
- Health and wellness,
- Integrated landscape management,
- Waste management,
- Value-added petroleum processing,
- Carbon conversion, capture and storage,
- Water resource management,
- Enhanced gas and oil recovery,
- and Building products and systems.

Informatics Circle Of Research Excellence

The Informatics Circle Of Research Excellence (iCORE) was established in October 1999 by the Government of Alberta to foster world-class university-based research that supports the ICT sector. iCORE is funded by the Government of Alberta and supported by partners in universities and industry.

The mandate of iCORE is to attract and grow a critical mass of outstanding researchers in the fields of computer science, electrical and computer engineering, physics, mathematics and other information and communications technology related disciplines. iCORE Inc. invests in the highest calibre research scientists and leaders who work on fundamental and applied problems in information and communications technology. It aims to fund iCORE Chairs at Alberta universities, around which world-class research teams will be developed.

Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Established by the Government of Alberta in 1980, the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) supports biomedical and health research at Alberta universities, affiliated institutions, and other medical and technology-related institutions. Operating funds come from a portion of the interest revenue from a Government endowment. Between 1980 and March 2006, AHFMR has contributed more than $850 million directly to the scientific community.

The goals of AHFMR include, but are not limited to:

- maintaining, strengthening, or expanding established programs, and leading initiatives in health research in Alberta,
- maintaining research education and training programs and encouraging young Albertans to pursue research careers.
- encouraging increased collaboration in Alberta, Canada, and elsewhere among investigators, research institutions, governments, other granting agencies and the private sector.
- continuing to promote the development of health research-related economic activities in Alberta, including the commercialization of innovations,
- and maintaining and improving communication with the public, government, the research community, universities, and health-related institutions.

Alberta Ingenuity Fund

Alberta Ingenuity supports science and engineering research of the highest caliber and is investing in areas of strategic importance to the province, such as water research, nanotechnology and clean energy. Alberta Ingenuity has four Ingenuity Centres and two Ingenuity Institutes, which are strongly aligned with Alberta government priorities and are attracting the world's best researchers and graduate students to the province. Alberta Ingenuity is also working on a new initiative that will transform the landscape for research support in Canada and brand Alberta as the leading destination for the world's top innovators – the Ingenuity Accelerators. The Ingenuity Accelerators will:

- attract exceptional people to lead research in areas critical to Alberta's future;

- provide exceptional support to enable those people to succeed;
- create exceptional results;
- and achieve social and economic benefits in Alberta.

Alberta Ingenuity focuses on helping companies commercialize research and translate new discoveries into useful products and business opportunities and on transforming research at academic institutions. Making connections between academic institutions and industry to foster partnerships and create more commercialization opportunities for Alberta companies is a priority for Alberta Ingenuity. Alberta Ingenuity is also committed to building a strong science culture in the province and is developing strategic partnerships towards this goal.

Alberta Ingenuity is the trade name of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Science and Engineering Research. Established by the Government of Alberta in 2000, Alberta Ingenuity is an arms-length, independent body accountable to government through the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology.

Telecommunications Research Laboratories

TR*Labs* (Telecommunications Research Laboratories) is Canada's largest research consortium (industry, university, government) in information and communications technology. TRLabs operates five laboratories in Western Canada (with locations in Edmonton and Calgary) where university professors, graduate students, industry partners and staff researchers work together to conduct applied research.

Established in 1986, TRLabs creates innovative technologies and trains students to enhance Canada's information and communication technology expertise. Its research program is focused on the following strategic areas: digital media, eHealth, home technologies, micro devices, networks and wireless.

The National Institute for Nanotechnology

In 2007, the National Institute for Nanotechnology opened. Located at the University of Alberta, the Institute will attract a core of the world's best scientists and will be a multidisciplinary facility where researchers in physics, chemistry, engineering, biology, informatics, pharmacy and medicine will collaborate to explore this new frontier of science.

The $52.2 million state-of-the-art Institute was jointly funded by the Government of Canada, through the National Research Council, and the Government of Alberta and the University of Alberta and is expected to be one of the top five nanotechnology research centres in the world. It will employ about 200 people, and house state-of-the-art equipment and research programs. The National Research Council, in collaboration with the University of Alberta, will operate the facility.

Alberta's Rocky Mountain region is home to four internationally acclaimed parks that allow visitors to experience spectacular beauty.

Jasper is the largest and most northerly of the four Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks. Its scenery is rugged and includes the deeply gouged Maligne Canyon that leads to picturesque Maligne Lake, the second-largest glacial lake in the world. A visit to the Columbia Icefields, located between Jasper and Banff, allows visitors to walk out onto a living glacier.

Banff is a world-famous tourist destination. The town site, surrounded by wilderness, offers a wide range of amenities; it is not unusual to see elk, or even the occasional bear, on the streets. Numerous hiking trails are easily accessible and the highway that travels north to Lake Louise and Jasper is dotted with scenic stops that are perfect for both picnics and photos.

Waterton Lakes is the world's first international peace park. Located on Alberta's border with the United States, it serves as a symbol of Canada's rich relationship with the United States. Waterton Lakes offers outstanding scenery and features exceptionally diverse flora and fauna in its prairie, forest, alpine and glacial settings.

Kananaskis Country is over 4,000 square kilometers (2,550 square miles) of foothills, mountains and streams protected by the provincial government as a unique multi-use recreation area. Kananaskis offers a multitude of activities, including: camping, hiking, boating, fishing, biking, horseback riding, golfing or snowmobiling.

Alberta is home to five of Canada's thirteen United Nations World Heritage Sites. They are: Dinosaur Provincial Park (fossil beds), Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (aboriginal culture), Wood Buffalo National Park (wildlife), the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (natural splendor), and the Waterton Glacier International Peace Park (natural and cultural significance). As well, Alberta is home to the:

- world's largest shopping and entertainment complex - West Edmonton Mall,
- world's second largest and Canada's largest national park - Wood Buffalo National Park,
- largest ski area in Canada - Lake Louise,
- world's largest Ukrainian Easter Egg (Pysanka) – Vegreville,
- second largest glacier fed lake in the world - Maligne Lake (Jasper National Park),
- one of the world's most photographed lakes - Moraine Lake (Banff National Park),
- North America's largest outdoor music festival - Big Valley Jamboree (Camrose),
- world's largest Tyrannosaurus Rex – Drumheller,
- one of the most scenic highways in the world – the Icefields Parkway,
- Canada's largest public display of live reptiles - Reptile World (Drumheller),
- world's largest herd of free roaming bison - Wood Buffalo National Park,
- North America's largest, oldest and best preserved buffalo jump site - Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump,
- world's largest oil sands development - Suncor/Syncrude Oil Sand Plant (Fort McMurray),
- only city in Canada found within two provinces – Lloydminster,
- bird capital of Canada – McLennan,

- North America's largest theatre festival - Fringe Festival (Edmonton),
- second largest zoo in Canada - Calgary Zoo (Calgary),
- one of the richest dinosaur finds in the world - Dinosaur Provincial Park,
- world's largest Olympic museum - Olympic Hall of Fame (Calgary),
- world's largest cable suspended roof "reverse hyperbolic paraboloid" - Olympic Saddledome (Calgary),
- the richest show jumping contest in the world - The Masters (Calgary),
- one of North America's largest collections of antique and classic cars, trucks and planes – Reynolds-Alberta Museum (Wetaskiwin),
- greatest outdoor show on earth - Calgary Stampede (Calgary),
- world's first and only U.F.O. landing pad - St. Paul,
- world's first indoor bungee jump - West Edmonton Mall (Edmonton),
- world's tallest teepee - Medicine Hat,
- and North America's largest collection of horse drawn vehicles - Remington Alberta Carriage Centre.

Residents of both Edmonton and Calgary enjoy the beauty of parks and river valleys. Edmonton's North Saskatchewan River valley is the longest expanse of continuous urban parkland in North America. This river valley park system features 27,394 acres of parkland, includes 60 km of bicycle paths and 400 km of trails.

Calgary is home to two major natural parks. Fish Creek Provincial Park protects 2,800 acres of natural woodland, including a lake with a beach and many hiking and biking trails. Nose Hill Park covers over 2,700 acres, offers natural grassland and a spectacular city view, and excellent hiking.

Recreational Activities

With 600 lakes, 245 rivers and over 78,000 square kilometers of parks, Alberta has an abundance of recreational opportunities and over 2,300 hours of sunshine each year to enjoy them. Whether it is outdoor recreation or learning about the natural environment, Alberta's network of recreation and protected areas has something for everyone, no matter the season.

The geographic diversity of the province offers a wide range of outdoor recreational activities. On any given day, in any given season, thousands of Albertans and visitors enjoy their spectacular surroundings by:

- skiing (Alberta boasts 6 mountain ski resorts and 66 regional ski hills),
- golfing (280 golf courses)
- hiking
- fishing in clear mountain lakes and streams
- photography
- canoeing
- skating
- swimming
- camping
- boating

- rock climbing
- and archaeological expeditions in the badlands, home of the dinosaurs.

Both Edmonton and Calgary offer numerous sport and recreational opportunities. Each city has professional teams in football, hockey and baseball. In addition, Alberta has world-class sporting facilities, a legacy of Calgary hosting the XVth Winter Olympiad, and Edmonton hosting the 1978 Commonwealth Games and 2001 IAAF World Championships in Athletics.

Social & Cultural Activities

Alberta has a diverse arts and culture community, and numerous organizations provide festivals, events and attractions for Albertans and out-of-province visitors.

Alberta's major cities, Calgary and Edmonton, have vigorous live theatre and visual arts scenes, as well as symphony, opera and ballet. Throughout the province community-led festivals bring music, dance, film, literature, theatre and the visual arts to Albertans of all ages. Arts and culture organizations held over 23,500 events and shows in 2006 throughout the province with total attendance reaching 10.7 million spectators. Included within these events and shows are 59 major festivals, which entertained 2.2 million attendees. A number of these festivals, such as Edmonton's annual Heritage Days, celebrate Alberta's culturally diverse population.

Edmonton has become widely known as Canada's "Festival City", attracting visitors worldwide. In particular, the summer months see such events as Heritage Days (an annual celebration of ethnic diversity), Jazz City International Festival, the Capital EX, the International Street Performer's Festival, the Folk Music Festival, and North America's largest Fringe Festival of live theatre.

There are numerous public and private museums and art galleries throughout Alberta. Edmonton is home to the Royal Alberta Museum, Art Gallery of Alberta, Fort Edmonton Park and the Telus World of Science (the largest planetarium in Canada and home of an IMAX theatre).

Calgary is home to the famous Calgary Stampede, which draws visitors internationally for its Million Dollar Rodeo. In addition, the city hosts many festivals including the Honens International Piano Competition and Calgary International Children's Festival.

Calgary has a diverse selection of museums and galleries. The most prominent of these is the Glenbow Museum with its permanent Indian and Inuit arts and craft displays. Calgary also has the Illingworth Kerr Gallery, The Nickle Arts Museum, Heritage Park (a 66-acre park highlighting pre-1915 Western Canada), and the Calgary Zoo and Prehistoric Park.

Alberta
Employment, Immigration and Industry

Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry
2nd Floor, Labour Building
10808 – 99 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 0G5

Telephone: 780.427-8531
Fax: 780.422-5070

Websites: www.employment.alberta.ca
www.alberta-canada.com

© 2007 Government of Alberta
ISBN: 978-0-7785-5487-5
ISSN: 1707-8407

You can access Facts on Alberta and the following related department publications on the internet at www.alberta-canada.com/statpub :

- Monthly Economic Review
- Alberta International Trade Review
- Inventory of Major Alberta Projects
- Highlights of the Alberta Economy
- Place-to-Place Price Comparison Survey
- Alberta's International Merchandise Exports

Printed in Canada